

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUANDA 00945 051640Z

47

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SAM-01 AID-05 IO-04 ACDA-05

OPR-01 OCE-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01

EB-04 COME-00 A-01 /083 W

----- 121521

O P 051157Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3037

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 945

DAR FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND CONGEN KILLORAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI AO

SUBJ: UPDATE ON MINI-COUP IN CABINDA

REF: LUANDA 942

1. SUMMARY. ON NOV 4 CABINDA CITY WAS OUTWARDLY CALM ALTHOUGH TRAVELLERS FROM THE NORTHERN PART OF THE ENCLAVE REPORT LOOTINGS AND SCATTERED ATTACKS AGAINST WHITES. HOWEVER, THE PRE-MINI-COUP REASONS FOR LONG-TERM INSTABILITY PERSIST AND THE MINI-COUP ITSELF AS WELL AS THE EVENTS PRECEDING IT HAVE ADDED A FEW MORE. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUANDA 00945 051640Z

2. PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE OUSTING OF BRIG. BARATA (REFTEL) WERE GENERALLY CONFIRMED BY EYEWITNESSES WHO DESCRIBED EVENTS TO A CONGEN OFFICER DURING HIS 6 HOUR VISIT TO CABINDA CITY NOV 2.

4. THE EXCEPTIONS:

A. BASED ON A VISIT TO THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS AND A BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH LT. COL. OLIVEIRA, THE CORONEL'S SELF-DESCRIBED ROLE OF HAVING HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ACTUAL TAKEOVER IS TO BE VIEWED SKEPTICALLY.

B. MPLA MEMBERS OF THE "JOINT FORCE" REMAINED IN THE CITY AT LEAST 24 HOURS FROM THE MORNING OF NOV. 2 UNTIL ABOUT MID-DAY NOV. 3. MPLA SOLDIERS TOOK THE ACTIVE ROLE IN POLICING THE CITY WHILE PORTUGUESE TROOPS MOSTLY JUST LOOKED ON.

C. JUNTA MEMBER BRIG. (AF) ANTONIO CARDOSA WHO WAS SENT TO CABINDA BY THE JUNTA NOV. 2, SAID THAT HE HAD NOT TALKED WITH FLEC AND ASKED THE CONGEN OFFICER'S ASSISTANCE IN CONTACTING THEM. (THE OFFICER ATTEMPTED TO GET WORD TO FLEC LEADERS TIAGO -VP OF FLEC, REAL LEADER OF FLEC IN CABINDA - AND TATY OF CARDOSA'S INVITATION. THE ORAL MESSAGE INCLUDED A DISCLAIMER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR SECURITY IF THEY THEMSELVES PERSONALLY VISIT THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY HQ.)

D. PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE EVENTS IN CABINDA HAVE INACCURATELY DOWNPLAYED THE AMOUNT OF VIOLENCE AND GUNFIRE. APPARENTLY THERE WAS HEAVY USE OF WEAPONS BY THE PORTUGUESE, MOST OF WHICH, HOWEVER, WAS INTO THE AIR FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT (ON THEMSELVES?). THERE IS ONE PERSISTENT BUT UNCONFIRMED STORY OF UNARMED FLEC SUPPORTERS KILLED AND WOUNDED WHEN THEY CHARGED PORTUGUESE TROOPS WHO HAD MOMENTS BEFORE GUNNED DOWN ONE OF THEIR NUMBER.

3. GEN. CARDOSO (UNSHAVEN, HANDS TREMBLING VIOLENTLY, CLAIMING NO SLEEP SINCE NOV. 2) IS PHYSICALLY ISOLATED AT THE ARMY HQ AND APPEARS NOT TO BE IN EFFECTIVE COMMAND. (COL. OLIVEIRA DOES, ALTHOUGH WHETHER HE WAS BEHIND THE MINI-COUP OR ONLY ITS AFTER-THE-FACT FRONT MAN IS UNCLEAR.) CARDOSO, WHO IS WAITING FOR A TEAM TO REPLACE THE GOVERNOR AND HIS OUSTED OFFICERS, SAID THE ONLY SHORT RUN PROBLEM NOW IS INTERNAL TENSION WITHIN TWO COMPANIES OF MIXED ANGOLAN AND CABINDAN BLACK TROOPS. THE GENERAL SAID THE TROOPS ARE "CALM", HE WAS UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO SAY WHERE THEIR LOYALTY NOW LAYS. IT IS UNIVERSALLY ASSUMED IN CABINDA THAT THE TROOPS ARE PRO-VLEC.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUANDA 00945 051640Z

5. BOTH BLACK AND WHITE CABINDANS EXPRESSED DISGUST FOR THE PORTUGUESE ARMY, SAYING NOT ONLY WAS IT NOT POLITICALLY NEUTRAL BUT HAD TO GET MPLA TO DO ITS DIRTY WORK. SOME WHITES EXPRESSED A GRUDGING ADMIRATION FOR MPLA EFFICIENCY AND DEPORTMENT. WHITES ARE HIGHLY UPSET AT THE ROBBERY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AT ROADBLOCKS BY PERSONS INVOKING FLEC'S NAME ALTHOUGH MOST DO NOT HOLD FLEC LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBLE.

6. IN OUR OPINION THE SHORT TERM DANGER TO AMCITS AND GULF'S
INSTALLATIONS IS NOT GREAT. THE ARMY (BY WHOMEVER LED) IS IN CON-
TROL, MPLA IS APPARENTLY CONTENT TO ACT AS REQUESTED BY THE
PORTUGUESE AND FLEC IS IN THE BUSH, PROBABLY PREPARING FOR A LONG
STRUGGLE.
PORTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, CABINDA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LUANDA00945
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740317-0374
From: LUANDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741171/aaaachxc.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LUANDA 942
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UPDATE ON MINI-COUP IN CABINDA
TAGS: PINT, MILI, AO
To: STATE LUSAKA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005